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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and Franklin H. Potter, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

Illinois

Chicago.—The Chicago Classical Club held its eighteenth meeting over a luncheon at the Hotel La Salle on November 1. Professor Roy C. Flickinger, president of the club, presided. Miss Loura B. Woodruff, of Oak Park, made a statement concerning the organization of the American Classical League at Milwaukee last July. The club was particularly fortunate in having as its chief speaker Dr. Walter Leaf, whose presence in Chicago as the Norman W. Harris Lecturer at Northwestern University was noticed in "Current Events" for December.

Northwestern University.—R. C. Flickinger, a frequent contributor to the *Journal*, professor of Greek, has been elected dean of Northwestern University.

The University of Chicago.—Professor Gordon J. Laing, president of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, has been elected head of the Department of Latin, to succeed Professor W. G. Hale, who retired from the University in June.

Dr. Walter Leaf delivered the William Vaughn Moody lecture, November 3, on the subject "Mount Ida." The lecture was illustrated.

Litchfield High School.—Miss Edith Dougherty, teacher of Latin, recently asked her pupils in Vergil to write a theme on the subject, "My Experiences and Conclusions Concerning the Latin Which I Have Had in High School." The plan is highly to be commended, for it focuses the student's mind upon the course as a whole, develops its concrete values, and realizes to him the contribution of Latin study to his mental equipment in comparison with his other studies. The papers written by the students are most frank, and are for the most part highly appreciative of classical study, showing that they have been quick to see and grasp the manifold values of the study of Latin.

Iowa

The University of Iowa.—The University is issuing weekly a *Service Bulletin* for the purpose of acquainting the people of Iowa with special lines of service

which the University is prepared to render. The *Bulletin* for Vol. III, No. 43, a six-page circular, is given to the subject of "Cicero and Politics," contributed by Professor Ullman. The author's purpose in this paper is to link up the course in Cicero's orations with the life and problems of today. It is explained more fully in his opening paragraph.

"It is the duty of the Latin teacher, as of all teachers, to relate his subject-matter, so far as possible, to the life about him. In so doing he finds the opportunity to make the work more interesting and to show that it is not something remote and dead but living and real. The Great War made Caesar actually attractive to the dullest pupil. What can be done with Cicero? In these days, when it is seen to be the duty of all teachers to turn the attention of their pupils to American ideals and institutions, a comparison between Roman and American institutions and political problems is the obvious concomitant of a Cicero course."

Kansas

Topeka.—At the N.E. Kansas State Teachers' Association held November 7, 8, 9, at Topeka, the Latin Round Table convened, with Professor J. R. Holtz, of the State Normal, as chairman. Owing to his planning, the meeting was thoroughly modernized and up to date, and no one went away without an inspiration to make the teaching of Latin mean what it should to the present-day pupils who have all been awakened by and greatly interested in the world-war just completed.

The music showed the same spirit, as the songs were entirely in Latin and consisted of *Adeste Fideles*, followed by the choruses of five popular songs, a few of many which have been Latinized by Professor Holtz.

The program was:

"The World War and Caesar Class," Miss Florence Witcher, Junction City; Latin Songs, Topeka High School Chorus, directed by Miss Grace Wilson; "Collateral Work in High School," Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, Lawrence; "Assisting the Pupil in Selecting His Program," Principal R. R. Cook, Topeka, Principal Annie Shafer, Olathe; "Junior High School Latin," Miss Teresa Ryan, State Normal; "Political Parallels in Cicero and Modern Life," Professor Roy Towne, Washburn College; "Hints on First-Year Latin," Professor O. G. Markham, Baker University, and Miss Laura Ewing, Topeka; "The Place of Literature in Our Schools," Professor J. S. Brandt, University of Kansas.

Massachusetts

Springfield.—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Western Massachusetts Section of the Classical Association of New England was held at the Central High School in Springfield, November 8, 1919. The meeting was well attended and the program was of unusual interest. Mr. Walter R. Agard, of Amherst College, recently returned from military service in France, pointed out certain parallels in French and Greek character which had impressed him while abroad.

Miss Abby L. Wrigley of the Central High School in Springfield read a sympathetic discussion of "The Value of Graduate Study for the Secondary School Teacher." Professor A. M. Harmon, of Yale University, in a paper on "Lucian of Samosata" protested vigorously against the slighting and perverse portrayal of Lucian by Wilamowitz in his history of Greek literature. Miss Louise E. W. Adams, of Smith College, offered an illuminating explanation of Pliny's reference (*Nat. Hist.* xxxii. 7, 36) to the annual painting of the statue of Jupiter with *minium*. Professor S. O. Dickerman, of Williams College, discussed the Greek reading-books used in this country in the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, particularly Dalzel's *Collectanea Graeca Minora* and *Graeca Maiora*.

The most memorable feature of the program was the address of President William Allan Neilson, of Smith College, on "Translation and Translations." With rare psychological acumen Dr. Neilson pointed out that a translation could never be a substitute for the original. The essential flavor of the language, the peculiar spirit of the writer, the atmosphere of the society which he represents are necessarily forfeited by the transfer to another tongue. A translation may in some cases be a greater work than its original, but it is a different one. The characters of a work, however, its structure, and the treatment of its theme may be studied in a different language. Hence translations have a place in education. People at large are conspicuously lacking in the sensitive power to appreciate refinements of speech, even though it be their own. In the effort to bring the uneducated world into touch with the past, translations must play a large part.

Dr. Neilson added some wholesome counsels to teachers of language. They must not in any wise lessen that attention to grammatical distinctions which gives their work its peculiar value; but let them also see to it that the pupil does not fail to grasp the idea. Our race is proverbially diffident in efforts to speak a foreign language. In somewhat the same way is it lacking in confidence in its power to read it. Let the teacher seek to develop this confidence in reading at length. Let him also give heed to the English expression of his pupils.

Boston.—The first meeting of the year of the Classical Club of Greater Boston was held at the Museum of Fine Arts on October 25. After luncheon the President, Professor Clifford H. Moore, of Harvard University, introduced the following speakers: Dean Roscoe Pound, of the Harvard Law School, who spoke on the *Minos* of Plato; Dr. F. B. Lund, who read several of his original translations of the *Odes* of Horace; Miss Mary W. Calkins, of Wellesley, who spoke on "The Interest of the Teacher of Philosophy in the Study of Classics," and Mr. J. K. Thompson, of Winchester College, England, classical lecturer at Harvard University.

The meeting was in charge of the Committee on Sociability, Miss Mary R. Stark, of the Girls' Latin School, Chairman.

Missouri

Kirksville.—The August number of the *Bulletin* of the State Teachers' College (Vol. XIX, No. 8) is devoted to *Ancient Language Series Number Three*, by Professor T. Jennie Green. The *Bulletin* is a pamphlet of twenty-nine pages and contains, first, a list of thirty Latin prefixes commonly used in English, with meanings and illustrations of these. The remaining pages are given to selected lists of Latin-English derivatives in the form of lessons. The author's own purpose in these lessons is best stated in her Foreword:

This *Bulletin* is issued by the Teachers' College at Kirksville, Missouri, for the assistance of the Latin teachers of that part of the state which is served by the college. It is issued because experience has taught us that many teachers in our high schools have not studied language sufficiently to see the relation between Latin and English words, and to associate with the Latin words that are being studied daily their English derivatives.

It is our belief that the co-ordination of Latin and English means great gain for both subjects. The English vocabulary of the average high-school youth is none too extended, and his acquisition of Latin vocabulary is none too rapid or easy. But his English vocabulary may be greatly extended and his progress in acquiring a Latin one greatly facilitated by the study of English derivatives in connection with every lesson on Latin vocabulary.

An English derivative with which a child is already familiar gives him a clutch on the Latin word and brings the study of Latin into closer touch with his daily life. He meets Latin in almost every English sentence that he reads or speaks, and by being made conscious of the connection between the two languages, he gets a better understanding of his native tongue and a keener interest in the study of Latin.

New Jersey

Montclair.—The *New York Times* under date of September 15 makes the following announcement, which will be of interest to the friends of Greek:

The demand for an opportunity to begin the study of Greek this year in the Montclair High School has been pressed so earnestly by a group of pupils that the principal, H. W. Dutch, announced today that a class would be formed. The study was dropped a few years ago.

Ohio

Toledo.—Scott High School has a record enrolment this year of 1,750 students. There are 600 Freshmen. The absence of all students in commercial courses who must now attend Woodward High does not appear to lessen the overflow at Scott. There is a remarkable increase in the number of Latin students.

Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh.—The department of Latin of the University of Pittsburgh is planning to issue, at intervals of about a month through the school year, a news letter. It will be sent to teachers of Latin in the Pittsburgh district and to others interested, and will contain notices of new books and articles,

propaganda material, announcements of meetings, and other items of interest to teachers and students of the classics.

After ten years' service at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. B. L. Ullman has resigned to become professor of Latin at the University of Iowa. Dr. Evan T. Sage, who has recently returned from military service, has been put in charge of the department of Latin, other members of which are Mr. Harold W. Gilmer and Mr. H. E. McCamey.

According to a recent decision of the State Board of Law Examiners for Pennsylvania, a college degree will not be accepted in lieu of preliminary examination unless it represents, either as a college-entrance requirement or as a subject required to be taken in course, Latin equivalent to the Latin requirements of the rules of Court (four books of Caesar and the four orations of Cicero against Catiline). The State Board of Medical Examiners strongly recommends that candidates for medicine have two years of Latin, and this amount is required for entrance in the combination seven-year college-medical course of the University of Pittsburgh.

Wisconsin

Milwaukee.—The Latin Section of the Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association was held at Milwaukee, after an informal luncheon, at the Milwaukee University School on November 7.

After a business meeting, over which the chairman of the Section, Mrs. Anne C. Ryder, of the Fond du Lac High School, presided, the following papers were presented: "Some Inspirational Motifs in the *Aeneid*," Professor F. J. Miller, the University of Chicago; "A Table for Critics," Miss Grace G. Goodrich, Ripon College; "Reading Courses for Latin Teachers," Professor George C. Fiske, the University of Wisconsin. A large and enthusiastic body of classical teachers attended the meeting.